



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

February 24, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**SACRAMENTO UPDATE**

**Status of County-Interest Legislation**

**County-sponsored SB 699 (Soto)**, which would change California's HIV reporting system from code-based to name-based, passed the Assembly Committee on Health on February 21, 2006 by a vote of 8 to 1. Our Sacramento Advocates, along with Gordon Bunch, Director of the County's HIV Epidemiology Program, and Carla Bailey of the County's Commission on HIV testified in support of the bill. **SB 699** now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**Pursuit of County Position on Legislation**

**AB 1785 (Bermudez)**, as introduced on January 4, 2006, would increase the amount required to be budgeted for allocation to grade separation projects from \$15 million to \$70 million annually. The County currently has seven projects on the California Public Utilities Commission's grade separation priority list and passage of this bill would increase the likelihood that funding can be made available for these projects. The Department of Public Works (DPW) recommends that the County support AB 1785, and we concur. Support for AB 1785 is consistent with the County's support of AB 357 (Calderon) in 1999 which would have increased the amount budgeted for grade separation projects from \$15 million to \$60 million annually. Consistent with our existing policy to support an increase in grade separation funds if regional transit programs are not harmed and the funding received by DPW from the California Department of Transportation or from gas tax revenues is not reduced, **our Sacramento advocates will support AB 1785 provided that there will be no negative impact on DPW's other funding sources.** This measure is set for hearing in the Assembly Transportation Committee on Monday, March 6, 2006.

**AB 1799 (Umberg)**, as introduced on January 9, 2006, would require the State to pay for expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2006, for elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the office of State Senator or member of the Assembly or to fill a vacancy in the office of the United States Senate or Representative in Congress. Where an election proclaimed by the Governor is consolidated with a local election, the State would pay only those additional expenses directly related to the election proclaimed by the Governor. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

AB 1799 is similar to other measures the County supported previously, namely AB 547 (Longville) during the 1999-2000 Legislative Session and AB 783 (Jones) during the 2005-06 Session. AB 547 revised primary election laws to require the State to pay for expenses incurred by local elections officials for elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the Legislature, or in the United States Senate or Congress. AB 547 was chaptered on October 10, 1999, but with a sunset date of January 1, 2005. AB 783 provided that expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2005 and before January 1, 2006, for elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the office of the Senate or member of the Assembly, or to fill a vacancy in the office of the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives, would have to be paid by the State.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk recommends that the County support AB 1799 because it would provide the County with a favorable fiscal impact, and we concur. Support for AB 1799 is consistent with Board policy to support proposals to provide County reimbursement for the costs incurred in conducting special elections to fill vacancies in State and Federal offices. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support AB 1799.** The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting. At this time, there is no hearing date, or known supporters or opposition.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:JF:EW:cc

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Local 660  
All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations  
Buddy Program Participants